

Application Serial No.: 10/669,003
Amendment dated October 8, 2004
Reply to Office Action dated April 8, 2004

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-5, and 7-20 are presently active in this case, Claims 1, 3, 4, and 7 having been amended and Claims 2 and 6 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by way of the present Amendment. Claims 12-20 have been withdrawn from consideration.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 1 and 9-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Yamashita et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,320,218). Claims 2, 3, and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamashita et al. in view of DeAngelis et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,295,522). Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamashita et al. in view of Fosnight et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,261,044). For the reasons discussed below, the Applicants request the withdrawal of the art rejections.

Claims 4-6 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The subject matter of allowable Claim 6 and the subject matter of intervening Claim 2 have been incorporated into independent Claim 1, thereby rendering Claim 1 allowable. Claims 3 and 7-11 are considered allowable for the reasons advanced for Claim 1 from which they depend.


Claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Thus, independent Claim 4 and dependent Claim 5 are allowable.

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Consequently, in view of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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